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Antenna switch with adaptive filter

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Antenna switch with adaptive filter

The invention relates to an antenna switch being arranged to alternately operate in a receive mode and in a transmit mode. The invention further relates to a module and a portable radio device comprising such an antenna switch.

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The present invention can be used in wireless telecommunication applications that are arranged to alternately transmit or receive wireless signals such as, mobile phones, personal digital assistants or wireless interfaces for (portable) computers. The invention is particularly suited for multiband wireless telecommunication applications that are arranged to receive radio frequency signals from or transmit radio frequency signals into different frequency bands such as the GSM/DCS, PCS or EDGE frequency bands. Antenna switches are generally known in the art such as SW444 from M/A-com or CSH 510 from Infineon Technologies. These, prior art antenna switches use GaAs high-power pHEMT switching devices for coupling transmitters and receivers to the antenna.

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It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved antenna switch for use in wireless telecommunication equipment. To this end, the antenna switch that is arranged to alternately operate in a receive mode and a transmit mode, comprises an adaptive filter for coupling signal processing means to an antenna during the receive mode and for electrically insulating the signal processing means from the antenna during the transmit mode.

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The invention is based upon the insight a transmitter that is coupled to the antenna may impose high voltages upon that antenna during the transmit mode that may be coupled back to and consequently damage the signal processing means. By providing an adaptive filter that is arranged to electrically insulate the processing means, e.g. a receiver, from the antenna during the transmit mode damage to the processing means can easily be prevented without a need for high-power and expensive switching devices that otherwise would be required for decoupling the processing means from the antenna.

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In an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the signal processing means are electrically insulated from the antenna by controllably configuring the adaptive filter such that the adaptive filter is coupled between the antenna and ground during the transmit mode. Herewith, the entire voltage that is imposed onto the antenna during the transmit mode is applied to the adaptive filter only, which means that harmful voltages are not coupled back to the processing means.

In an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the adaptive filter is high-impedant during the transmit mode and low-impedant during the receive mode. According to the present invention, the entire voltage that is imposed onto the antenna during the transmit mode is applied to the adaptive filter. By making the adaptive filter high-impedant, the current and associated power, that must be absorbed by the filter, can considerably be reduced, whereas, during reception, the received signals should be attenuated as little as possible, which requires that the adaptive filter should be low impedant.

In another embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the adaptive filter has a first passband during the transmit mode and a second passband during the receive mode. With this, it is possible to arrange the antenna switch so that it can only receive radio frequency signals from, or transmit radio frequency signals into, certain preferred frequency bands such as the GSM/DCS or EDGE frequency bands. Signals that lie outside these preferred frequency ranges are suppressed or rejected. Additionally, this embodiment provides the advantage that the filter also suppresses or rejects the higher harmonics of the received or transmitted radio frequency signals which otherwise may cause interference.

In an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the adaptive filter comprises a switch device through which the processing means is coupled to adaptive filter. Herewith, the receiver can galvanically be coupled or decoupled from the antenna.

In an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the switch device is a low-power switch device. Which are generally more compact and less expensive switching devices.

In another embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the adaptive filter further provides electrostatic discharge protection. This has the advantage that no additional ESD protection devices have to be integrated into either the antenna switch itself or into the signal processing means for protecting against an electrostatic discharge.

In an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention, the adaptive filter comprises switching devices for changing the geometry of the filter. Herewith, the characteristics of the filter can easily be adapted depending on the operational mode of the antenna switch.

5 Embodiments of a module and a mobile radio device according to the present invention, correspond with embodiments of the antenna switch according to the present invention.

10 These and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from and elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

Fig. 1 shows a functional model of a prior art antenna switch.

Fig. 2 shows an example of the filter characteristics of the adaptable filter according to the present invention.

15 Fig. 3 shows an embodiment of an antenna switch according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 shows a module comprising an antenna switch according to the present invention.

20 Fig. 5 shows a portable radio device comprising an antenna switch according to the present invention.

In Fig. 1, a functional model of an antenna switch according to the prior art is provided. The antenna switch comprises switching devices 7,9 and 11 for coupling multiple
25 receivers (not shown here) to the antenna 1. Each receiver may be arranged to process radio frequency signals (not shown here) that are originating from different frequency bands such as GSM/DCS , PCS or EDGE. The antenna switch further comprises switching devices 3 and 5 for coupling multiple transmitters to the antenna 1 for transmitting radio frequency signals into the different frequency bands. The switching devices are controlled by applying a control
30 voltage (Vc1, Vc2,Vc3,Vc4,Vc5) to the gate of the switching devices.

Fig. 2 shows by means of example, a possible filter characteristic of the adaptive filter. According to the present invention, the filter characteristics of the adaptive filter are determined by the operational mode of the antenna switch i.e. the transmit mode and receive mode. In addition, through the antenna switch multiple transmitters and or receivers

can be coupled and decoupled to and from the antenna. This is reflected in the design of the adaptive filter. The adaptive filter of Fig. 2 for example, is designed to operate as a high-pass filter (curve 20) during the receive mode and to operate as a bandpass filter (curves 22,24) during the transmit mode. The adaptive filter of Fig. 2 is designed to support two transmitters for the transmission of radio frequency signals into two frequency bands. Curve 22 can be used for a transmitter that transmits radio frequency signals into the GSM frequency band whilst curve 24 can be used for a transmitter that transmits radio frequency signals into the DCS frequency band.

Fig. 3 shows an antenna switch according to the present invention comprising adaptable filter 30. The adaptable filter 30 is equipped with switches S3,S4 and S8 to modify the geometry of the filter in accordance with the operational mode of the antenna switch 31. The antenna switch 31 according to Fig. 3 supports two transmitters Tx1 and Tx2 and three receivers Rx1,Rx2 and Rx3 for the transmission respectively reception of radio frequency signals. It will appear to the man skilled in the art that antenna switches 30 can be derived that support an arbitrary number of transmitters and receivers.

The transmitters Tx1 and Tx2 can be coupled to the antenna through switches S1 and S2 which are alternately operated i.e. only one of the transmitters at a time Tx1 and Tx2 is coupled to the antenna 1. The receivers Rx1,Rx2 and Rx3 are coupled to the antenna 1 through the adaptable filter. Although, most of times only one receiver at a time will be coupled to the antenna 1, it is also possible to simultaneously couple multiple receivers Rx1,Rx2 and Rx3 to the antenna 1 for a parallel reception of multiple radio frequency signals that originate from different frequency bands.

The adaptable filter 30 comprises switches S3, S4 and S8 to change the geometry of the filter depending on the operational mode of the antenna switch. During the receive mode, switches S1, S2, S3, S4 and S8 are opened so that the adaptive filter comprises L1, C1 and C2 which represents a high-pass filter. During the transmit mode, the geometry of the adaptable filter 30 changes to a band-pass filter. In case Tx1 is coupled to the antenna, switches S1,S3 and S8 are closed so that the adaptive filter 30 comprises C1,C2,C3, L1 and L2. In case Tx2 is coupled to the antenna 1 the adaptive filter 30 comprises C1,C2, C3, L1 and L3. By having different values for L1 and L3 it is possible to obtain different band-pass filter characteristics as is for example illustrated by curves 22 and 24 of Fig. 2. By closing S8 during transmission, Rx1,Rx2 and Rx3 are coupled to ground through decoupling capacitor C3. Herewith, receivers Rx1, Rx2 and Rx3 are shielded from harmful voltages that may be imposed onto the antenna by any one of the transmitters Tx1 and Tx2. According to

the present invention, the adaptive filter is high impedant during the transmit mode which considerably reduce the flow of current through the adaptive filter. Inductor L1 also serves as an ESD protection device.

Various component can be used as switching devices for example high-power
5 pHEMT switches, low-power pHEMT switches , CMOS RF switches or even MEMS
(MicroElectromechanical Machine Systems) switches. In a cost effective implementation of
the antenna switch S1, S2, S3 and S4 and S8 could implemented as PIN diodes whilst S5,S6
and S7 could be low-power pHEMT switches. It will be apparent to the man skilled in the art
that in this case a decoupling device 32 is required to prevent that the PIN diodes S3 and S4
10 are galvanically coupled. Decoupling device 32 could be implemented as a capacitor.

Fig. 4 shows a module 40 that comprises an antenna switch 31 that is coupled
to a radio frequency front end 42. The radio frequency front end 42 is arranged to generate or
process the transmitted or received radio frequency signals.

Fig. 5 shows a portable radio device, such as a mobile phone, a personal
15 digital assistant or a wireless interface card for (mobile) computers. Shown is an antenna 1,
coupled to antenna switch 31. The portable radio device comprises a radio frequency front
end 42 for the generation or the processing of the transmitted respectively, received radio
frequency signals.

It is to be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than
20 limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative
embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. The word
"comprising" does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a
claim. The word "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a
plurality of such elements. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually
25 different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be
used to advantage.

CLAIMS:

1. Antenna switch (31) being arranged to alternately operate in a receive mode and a transmit mode , the antenna switch comprising an adaptive filter (30) for coupling a signal processing means to an antenna (1) during the receive mode and for electrically insulating the signal processing means from the antenna (1) during the transmit mode.
2. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 1, wherein the signal processing means are electrically insulated from the antenna (1) by controllably configuring the adaptive filter (30) such that the adaptive filter is coupled between the antenna (1) and ground (GND) during the transmit mode.
3. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 2, wherein the adaptive filter (30) is high-impedant during the transmit mode and low-impedant during the receive mode.
4. Antenna switch (31) according to claims 2 or 3, wherein the adaptive filter (30) has a first passband (22,24) during the transmit mode and a second passband (20) during the receive mode.
5. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 4, wherein the first passband (22,24) is a band-pass passband and the second passband (20) is a high-pass passband.
6. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive filter (30) comprises a switch device (S5,S6,S7) through which the signal processing means is coupled to adaptive filter.
7. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 6, wherein the switch device (S5,S6,S7) is a low-power switch device.
8. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 7, wherein the low-power switch device is a low-power pHEMT or a MEMS.

9. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive filter (30) is further arranged to provide electrostatic discharge protection.
- 5 10. Antenna switch (31) according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive filter (30) comprises switching devices (S3,S4,S8) for changing the geometry of the adaptive filter (30).
11. Module (40) comprising an antenna switch (30) according to claim 1.
- 10 12. Portable radio device (50) comprising an antenna switch (30) according claim 1.

ABSTRACT:

An antenna switch (31) that is arranged to alternately operate in a receive mode and a transmit mode, comprises adaptive filter (30). Herewith, signal processing means (Rx1,Rx2 and Rx3) can be coupled to an antenna (1) during the receive mode and be insulated from the antenna during the transmit mode.

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Fig. 3

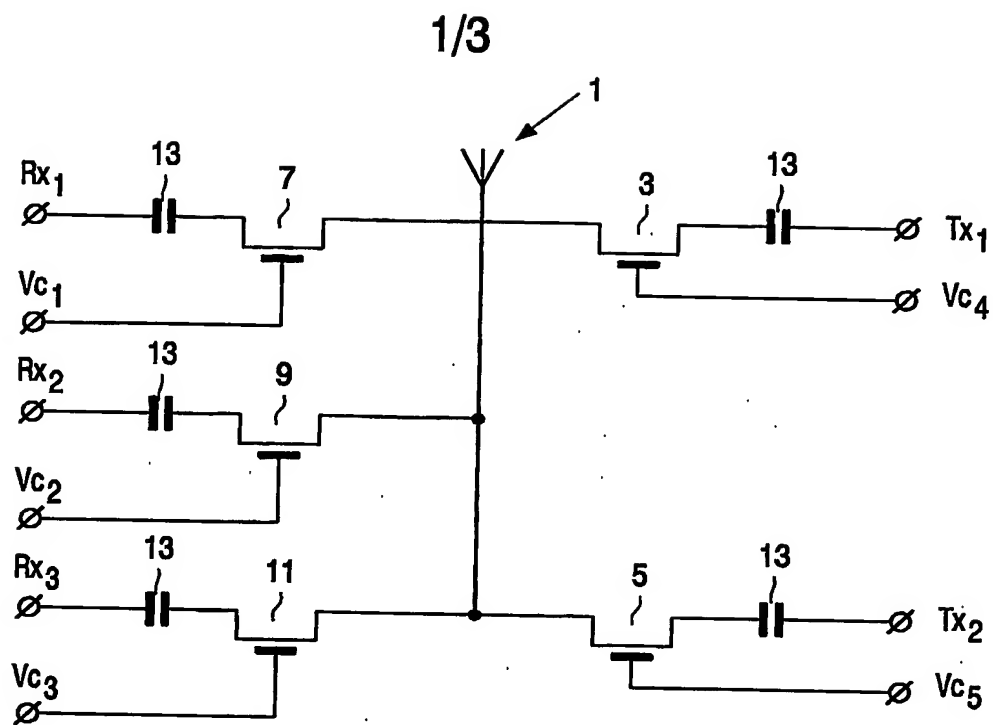


FIG. 1

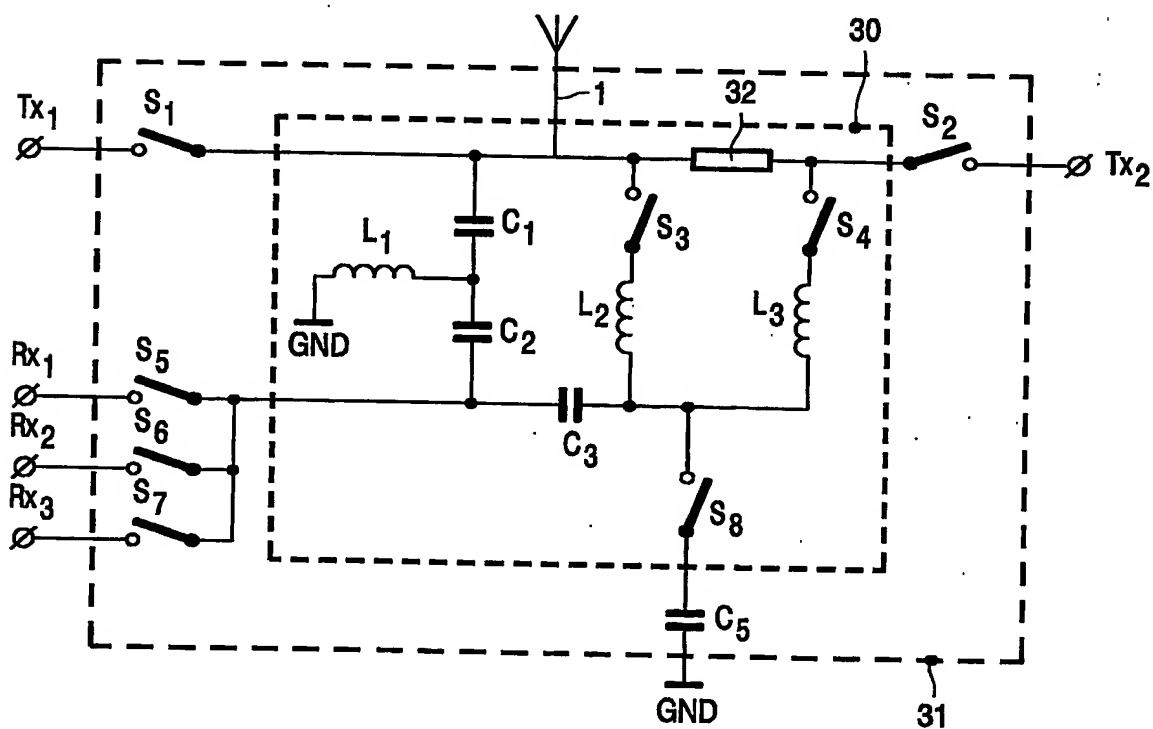


FIG. 3

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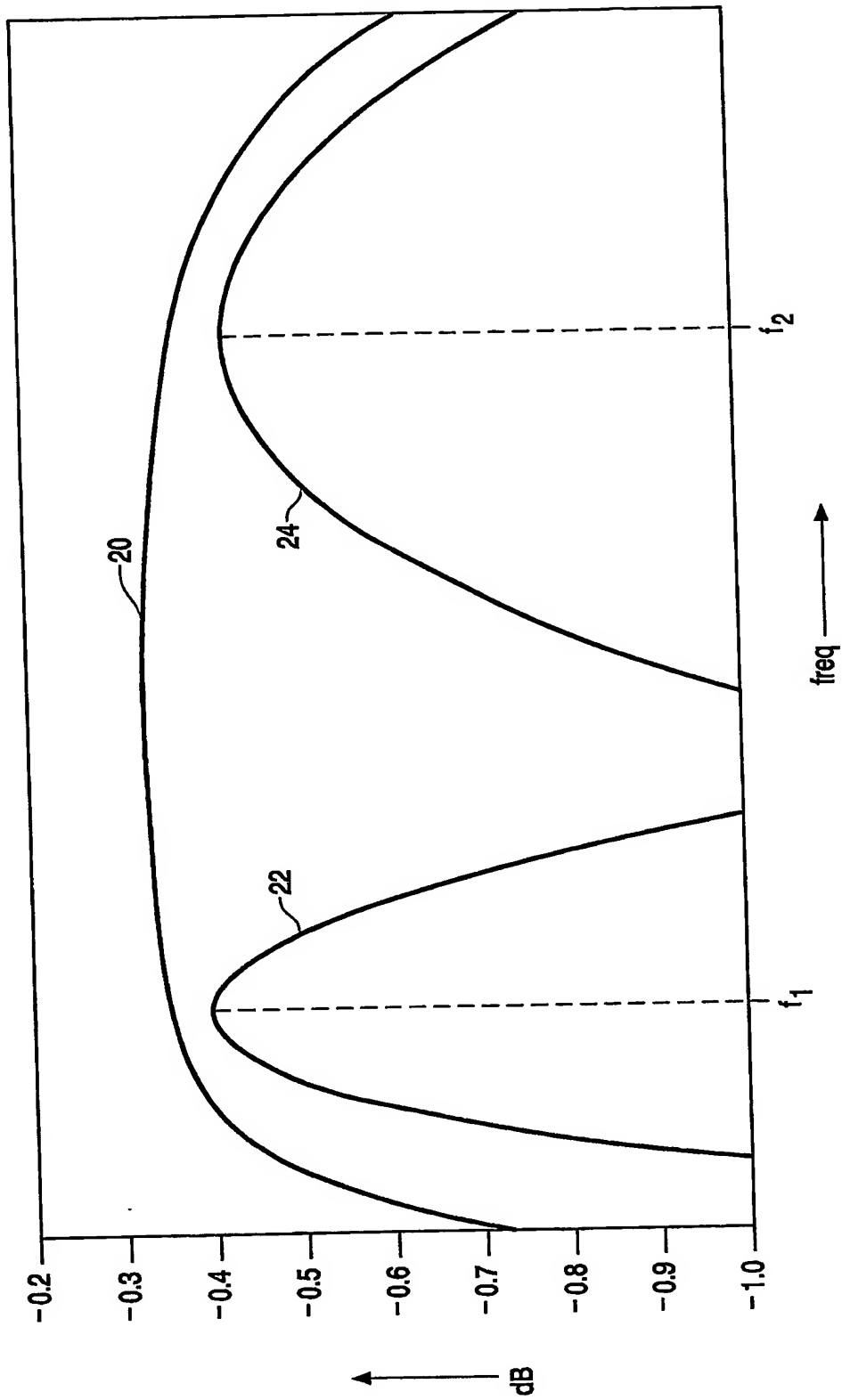


FIG. 2

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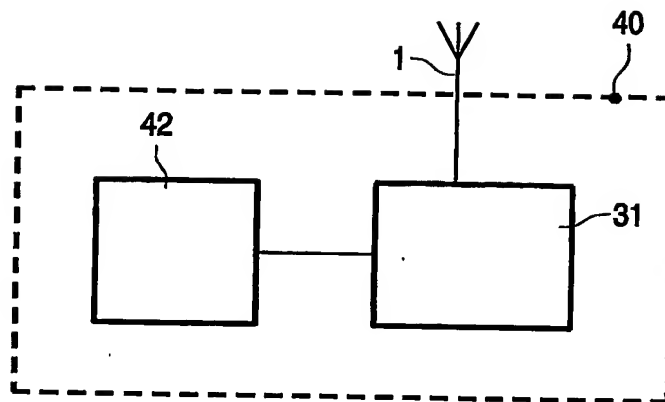


FIG. 4

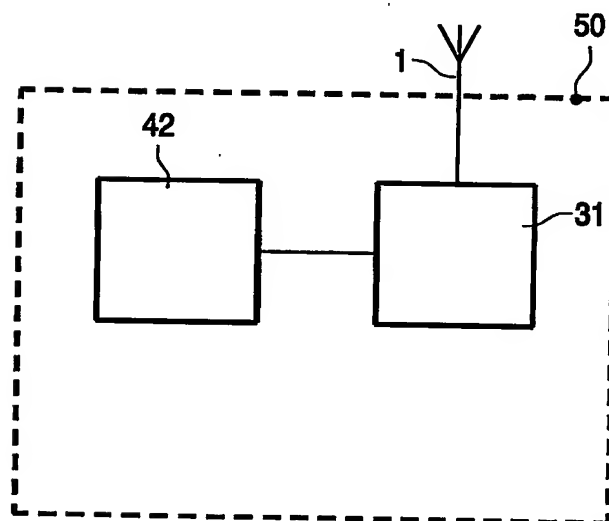


FIG. 5

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